

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## GOVERNOR'S MILITARY COUNCIL

HON. ELLEN TAUSCHER, CHAIR



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
GOVERNOR

25 March, 2015

### California Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., we serve on the Governor's Military Council to support military, national security and aerospace operations in California. Our bipartisan group, comprised of retired flag officers, civic leaders and state legislators, works to underscore the unique national security value of California installations. We also work with state leaders to strengthen California's support for military operations in our state.

We write to request your support in conveying March Air Reserve Base (ARB) to the Department of Defense (DoD) as the preferred location for the third main operating base (MOB) of the KC-46 Pegasus Aerial Tanker. As you may know, the United States Air Force recently announced several bases that are being considered to host the KC-46 Air Tanker, which included March ARB.

Given the strategic priority stated by the President and DoD to rebalance forces to the Pacific region, March ARB is the ideal location for the next KC-46 main operating base. The President, the Secretary of Defense and Air Force leadership have gone to great lengths to stress the importance of the rebalancing strategy. The President recently stated that "by the end of this decade, a majority of our Navy and Air Force fleets will be based out of the Pacific, because the United States is, and will always be, a Pacific power." The President's approach is grounded in a simple proposition: the United States is a historic Pacific power whose economy, strength, and interests are inextricably linked with Asia's economic, security, and political order. The ability of the KC-46 to easily access the Pacific region and quickly support multiple aerial missions will be crucial to carrying out the Pacific Rebalance.

March Air Reserve Base, located in Riverside County, is the only Air Force Reserve base in the Pacific United States that meets the Air Force's requirements for MOB 3. Furthermore, none of the first three KC-46 MOB locations that have already been selected, in Oklahoma, Kansas and New Hampshire, advance the strategic Rebalance to the Pacific region.

March ARB provides unique benefits as the next KC-46 MOB. March ARB has a 13,300-foot runway ideally suited for large aircraft, as well as considerable ramp and hangar space to accommodate this aircraft. The aging KC-135 aircraft at March ARB are extremely active, logging the second most flying hours in the Air Force Reserve in FY14 and are on pace to lead the way as the most active KC-135 Air Force Reserve unit in FY15. March ARB also has robust community relationships, both with local government and private business. These relationships

have helped ensure no substantial encroachment or development issues exist around the base. In fact, local governments have enacted compatible land use controls to preserve the installation's flying operations. All construction must be approved through the County of Riverside Airport Land Use Commission and local communities have signed agreements to comply with the March ARB Airport Installation Compatibility Zone Study. The last Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) report was performed recently, in 2005.

Importantly, the base is a proven point of embarkation and debarkation for missions in the Pacific theater. For example, all West Coast-based Marines at Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Camp Pendleton, and Air Station Miramar, as well as units from Air Station Yuma, deploy from March ARB. The President's strategic Rebalance to the Pacific increases demand for both West Coast Marines and March ARB operations.

Unfortunately, the importance of the President's strategic rebalance is not evident in the Air Force's KC-46 strategic basing criteria. While the scoring criteria correctly identify that demand for the KC-46 is the most important criterion for base selection, accounting for 25 percent of the overall basing score, future expected demand resulting from the Rebalance to the Pacific is not accounted for within the scoring criteria. Instead, the criteria rely on historical demand data.

We request that you urge the Department of Defense and Air Force to consider the strategic Rebalance to the Pacific as a part of the military judgment exercised by commanders during the final site selection. The selection of MOB 3 should account for future demand growth, and consider the strategic risk of failing to locate one of only two planned KC-46 reserve bases in the Pacific region.

Gaining the KC-46 at March ARB, one of the Air Force's most important future aerial platforms, is important to maintaining California's role in supporting our national security. Our state's defense infrastructure provides irreplaceable air, land and sea ranges, hosts dozens of important military installations, and is home to American companies building our military's most advanced technologies. The Department of Defense is a key economic engine in California, directly investing an estimated \$71 billion in employee salaries and contract expenditures in our state.

We look forward to working with you to support the KC-46 coming to California. Our staff contact for the Governor's Military Council is Andreas Mueller, in the Governor's Washington D.C. office, who can be reached at 202-734-1478, or [andreas.mueller7.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:andreas.mueller7.nfg@mail.mil).

Sincerely,

Members of the Governor's Military Council

Cc:

Secretary of Defense

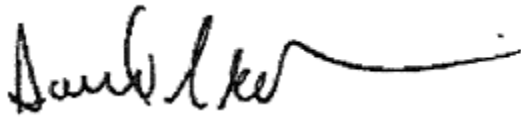
Air Force Office of Strategic Basing



Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher  
Chair, Governor's Military Council



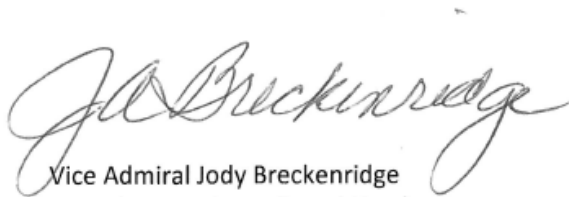
Major General Alice Astafan  
United States Air Force (Ret.)



Major General David S. Baldwin  
Adjutant General, California Military Department



Thomas R. Berard  
Senior Executive, Department of the Air Force (Ret.)



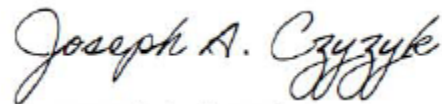
Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge  
United States Coast Guard (Ret.)



Rocky Chavez  
Assemblymember, 76th Assembly District  
Colonel, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



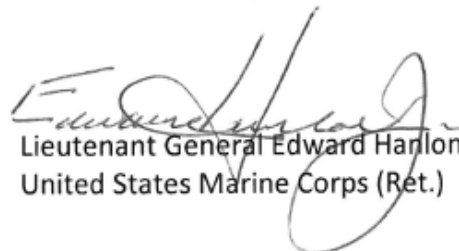
Honorable Philip E. Coyle III



Joseph A. Czyzyk  
Chairman and CEO, Mercury Air Group



Charles A. Giacchi  
Senior Executive, Department of the Navy (Ret.)



Lieutenant General Edward Harlon  
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



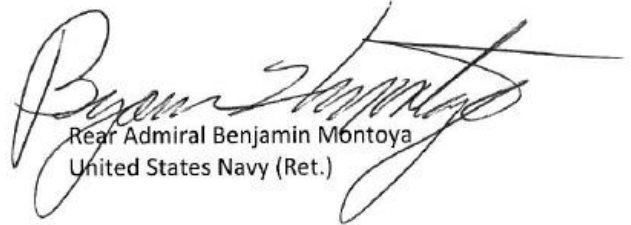
Rear Admiral James Johnson  
United States Navy (Ret.)



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United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



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Vice Admiral, United States Navy (Ret.)



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State Senator, 31st Senate District  
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